

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROTECTION SWITCHING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system supports 50 ms protection switching times independent of network
5 architecture. The system includes multiple protection switch fabrics to perform facility
protection switching for the signals and a central switch fabric to switch a subset of the
signals in a non-facility protection switching manner among the protection switch
fabrics. Linear and ring network configurations are supported by the system. The
system has flexibility to perform Linear Automatic Protection Switching (LAPS),
10 Unidirection Path Switched Ring (UPSR) protection switching, and Bidirectional Line
Switched Ring (BLSR) protection switching without burdening the central switch fabric
with unnecessary or redundant traffic.